



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: News Directors
FROM: Mike Gabbard 547-7001 OR 371-5188

COUNCIL CALLS ON DOH TO ASSESS LANDFILLS

HONOLULU – AUGUST 29, 2003 – A RESOLUTION SIGNED BY ALL NINE HONOLULU CITY Councilmembers and introduced today requests the State Department of Health (DOH) to perform a study to identify any soil contamination and air pollution problems associated with closed landfills on Oahu.

The resolution, authored by Public Works Committee Chair Mike Gabbard asks DOH to work with the Board of Water Supply, the City Department of Environmental Services (ENV), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency on the study.

In February of this year, the Council adopted a similar resolution (03-36) introduced by Gabbard calling on the Board of Water Supply (BWS) to assess the impact closed landfills may have on drinking water sources. A study team comprised of BWS, ENV and DOH representatives evaluated existing information on closed landfills on Oahu and developed a draft scope of work and cost estimate. Based on the current level of BWS staffing workload and the specific expertise necessary to meet the objectives of the study scope, a consultant will be procured, funded and managed by BWS. The landfill study is funded in the BWS operating budget at an estimated cost of \$300,000, with the understanding that the study cost and scope will be subject to change upon discussions with the selected consultant and the agency study team. The agency study team will be maintained to provide guidance and content expertise to the selected consultant. The final study will be submitted to the City Council in approximately 1 year from contract notice to proceed.

"Our hope is that the State Department of Health will follow the lead of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply in stepping up to the plate to ensure that these closed landfills pose no present or future threat to the health and well-being of our people," Gabbard said. "The DOH maintains a site inventory which has identified 69 closed landfill and dump sites on Oahu. While BWS looks at the impact of these sites on our precious drinking water, the State Department of Health should simultaneously assess any deleterious effects these sites may be having on our soil and air. This is a prime example of when and how the State and the City should work hand-in-hand for the protection of our citizens and our aina."

Copies of Resolution 03-239 are available at the City Clerk's office or by calling Gabbard's Council office at 547-7001.

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